Welcome Vilas Tonape, Associate Director

Associate Director for CAH starts August 23

The Lewis-Clark State College Center for Arts & History (CAH) has hired an Associate Director.

According to CAH Director Lisa Jones, Vilas Tonape, an "exceptional and accomplished international artist and arts professional," is being hired for the recently-created position at the Center. Tonape, who has been teaching at Polk State College in Lakeland, Florida, will begin his new job on August 23, and will be introduced at an all-campus meeting at LCSC on that same day. The general public will be introduced to him at the next exhibition opening for the Cambium Collective and Laurel Macdonald at the Center for Arts & History on **September 7, from 6-8 p.m**.

Tonape is a native of India and has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the Sir J.J. School of Art, University of Bombay (India). His graduate (Master of Fine Arts) work was from Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas. His own work has been exhibited internationally, including venues in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Ontario, and Bombay. Tonape brings over nine years of teaching experience, ranging from continuing education to senior level teaching in college, has authored handbooks for artists, and is a curriculum designer.

Jones said that during the interview process, which included a tour of the Center, the LC Valley, and LCSC campus, Tonape described the Center for Arts & History as "raw gold" with "great potential" and expressed enthusiasm about moving to the area. Jones said he also expressed interest in offering public lectures in art appreciation and special art topics that would be "teasers" to learn more – by taking art classes at LCSC or just coming back to visit and experience the gallery.

"Vilas is an internationally recognized artist who has been solicited to present, teach, demonstrate, jury and review art across the United States and in India," Jones said.

Tonape will be traveling to India to visit family prior to starting his position at Lewis-Clark State College.